

Washtenaw County Democrats win big despite national losses

Quanzelle Wyatt
News Reporter

The results from the Nov. 6 general election in Washtenaw County were finalized, showing a mostly down ballot win for democrats in the county.

Straight Party Ticket

For the straight party ticket, the Democratic Party got the majority with 71.64% of the vote, and republicans getting 26.45%. The Libertarian party got 0.38% of the vote, and other parties getting only a small sliver of the voting population of the county. The lowest voting county on the ticket is the Natural Law Party, which only got 0.12% of the vote.

President & Vice President

Even though Kamala Harris and Tim Walz lost Michigan, the county voted for them with 70.73% of the vote. Donald Trump and JD Vance received 26.49% of the votes in the county. Jill Stein and her VP pick got 1.27% of the vote. Joseph Kishore and his VP pick only had 0.04% of the vote.

United States Senator

With 70.32% of the vote, Elissa Slotkin won the majority and Mike rogers only getting 26.55% of the vote. The third highest to get the vote from the county was Douglas P. Marsh, with only 1.59% of the vote.

This was a hotly contested seat within Michigan, since this would

determine the makeup of the senate. It would determine how close the republicans would be to having a majority within the senate and if the democrats could close the gap of that majority.

State Legislature

For the state legislature, democrats were able to get most of the vote and only one republican. Dale Binecki, the republican challenger to Reggie Miller, got 49.95% of the vote for the 31st state legislature district as the representative.

Dale Binecki ran on a platform of agriculture, law and order, education, and local control according to his website. Agriculture and food security are chief concerns for the district, and are important to him as well since

he grew up in a farmer community. For law and order, he believes in staying committed to keeping all Michiganders safe and is an advocate for law enforcement. He doesn't want to defund the police, he wants to restore resources, and improve the respect of law enforcement.

For education, he believes that the school system is failing. He wants to support successful outcomes for every student, and is a parental advocate. Meaning he would like to have parents have more of a say in their children's education. With infrastructure, he wants to make Michigan roads and infrastructure the top priority. For local control, he wants to put more power for local governments to have a say in how solar panels are installed since the

district is mostly rural.

General Election Results

These are some results from the county, and more are on the website at www.washtenaw.org. You can look for results by going to your government, then departments A-H, Clerk/Register of Deeds, then Elections, and finally Election Results. You can also google the results as well.

Here are some results from the county overall. 337,738 registered to vote. Voters cast 223,257 ballots, and officials counted 120 precincts completely. Voters turned out at a rate of 66.10%, and officials counted all the precincts. These were as reported on Nov. 6th at 4:10 a.m.

Digital Summer Clinic provides opportunities for EMU students

Allie Beecher
Staff Writer

For many college students, the search for an internship can feel overwhelming. It can be hard for students to even know where to look for internships. Fortunately, Eastern Michigan University recognizes that struggle. EMU's Center for Digital Engagement and SPARK Ann Arbor have partnered to create an internship program that can help all students move forward in their careers .At the Digital Summer Clinic.

The Digital Summer Clinic is a paid, 10-week digital marketing summer internship that runs from June to August. It is open to all college students in Southeast Michigan of any major and year. Students who have graduated within 18 months of the internship start date are also eligible to apply. Interns earn at least \$18 per hour.

The Digital Summer Clinic places interns with a startup company in the Ann Arbor area, where they may take on a variety of projects and challenges. Previous interns have worked for startups such as MeetYourClass, Tespo, PocketNest, and Genomenon. The specific projects interns take on depend on the company for which they work. However, all have the opportunity to learn and apply valuable digital media skills. Past interns have

success after college. Some have accepted full-time job offers with the startup companies at which they worked during the clinic. Others have gone on to find jobs at Google, GM's digital agency iProspect, and Ford's digital agency GTB.

To apply for the Digital Summer Clinic, students must first complete an online application at DigitalSummer.clinic. The online application will open during the winter 2025 semester. If they are chosen to move to the next step, candidates will meet with a member of the Digital Summer Clinic team for an interview.

To learn more about the Digital Summer Clinic and network with leaders from Google, Pinterest and the Detroit Pistons, students can attend the upcoming 2024 Digital Marketing Workshop. This event will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Nov. 15 at the EMU Student Center. EMU students may register for only \$5, and breakfast and lunch are provided. Students can also visit DigitalSummer.clinic online and email info@digitalsummer.clinic with further questions.

Finding an internship can be challenging, but EMU provides students with an excellent opportunity in the Digital Summer Clinic. It is a chance for students to gain work experience, learn new skills, earn valuable credentials and grow their professional networks.



Courtesy of EMU Today

Notes From the Editor: the 2024 election results

Ameera Salman
Editor-in-Chief

Opinion

The Associated Press has called the outcome of the 2024 presidential election. Donald Trump will serve a second term as president of the United States. The results of Senate races across the country gave President Trump a Republican-majority backing in half of the legislative branch so far. As of publishing, the results of 10 House of Representatives races have

yet to be called. The Republican Party needs two more seats in order to gain a majority in the House.

If President-Elect Trump is supported by a Republican majority in both houses of Congress, any and all plans he has will be streamlined. And with a bench of conservative-leaning, Trump-appointed Supreme Court Justices, Donald Trump's word could quickly become law.

The role of journalism has never been more important. In a democracy, it is our job to hold our leaders

accountable – for the good and the bad.

This election cycle has been a great example of what happens when we listen – and when we don't. By popular vote results alone, roughly 15 million fewer people voted in this election.

Why did these people stay home?

One answer might be found in Dearborn, Mich., home to the highest concentration of Arabs in the U.S. Just over one year ago, on Oct. 7, 2023, Israel declared war on Hamas, exacerbating the dire conditions of Palestinians in Gaza and the occupied

West Bank.

Since that day, over 44,000 Palestinian individuals have been killed. At least 137 journalists and media workers have also died.

Demonstrations at universities and in cities across the country saw protestors demand a ceasefire and an end to military aid to Israel.

In Wayne County, Kamala Harris earned 60,000 votes fewer than Joe Biden did in 2020.

Trump gained across major voter demographics, secured the popular

vote, and won every swing state.

The voters have spoken; but the news does not stop when an election ends. Journalists will keep documenting and reporting the truth as long as there is truth to tell.

Ameera Salman is the editor in chief of The Echo. She has served as a writer and editor with the news organization, including two years as editor of the Cellar Roots literary magazine, since 2022.

The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti-area communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as The Normal News, The Echo distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout the surrounding community during the fall and winter academic semesters; and publishes year-round on the web. Contents are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

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THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

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Print editions published Tuesdays from late August to early May are available in racks or on tables in all academic buildings on the EMU campus, and at dozens of businesses in the community.




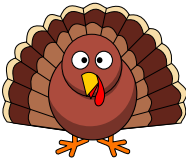

- Among those businesses are:
- Sweetwaters on Cross St
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 - and more!

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CORRECTIONS

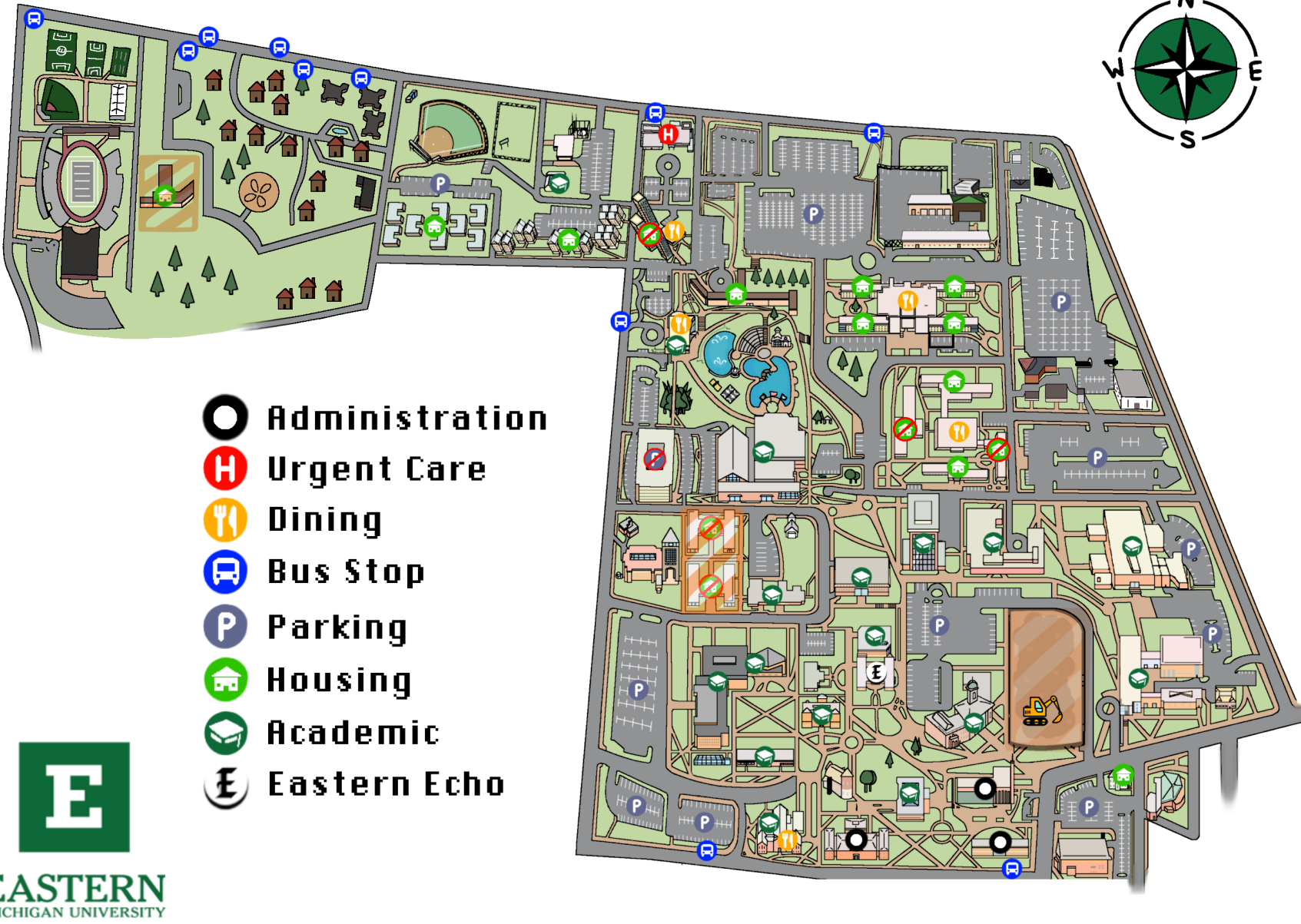
The Eastern Echo corrects mistakes. If we got it wrong, we want to make it right. Errors should be brought to the attention of the Editor-in-Chief by email: editor@easternecho.com

Weekly Calendar

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12	WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13	THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14	FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15	SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16	SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17	MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18
CHHS BROWNBAG PRESENTATION MARSHALL 115 12 P.M. - 1 P.M.	CHEESE AND CHILL! HONORS COLLEGE 107 RECEPTION HALL 5:30 P.M. - 7 P.M.	EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY AT 175: TELLING OUR STORIES TO UNDERSTAND WHO WE ARE HALLE LIBRARY AUDITORIUM 12:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.	THE DIGITAL MARKETING WORKSHOP - MARKETING, CULTURE, AND AI STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM 8 A.M. - 2 P.M.	BANDORAMA PEASE AUDITORIUM 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.	TURKEY TRAILS - YPSILANTI ROLLING HILLS COUNTY PARK 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.	DAY OF ACTION TABLING STUDENT CENTER FIRST FLOOR 2 P.M. - 4 P.M.
WGST REGISTRATION BLITZ LAKE HOUSE 5 P.M. - 6 P.M.	FINDING THE LOST ARAB AMERICA: HISTORY SPEAKER SERIES STUDENT CENTER AUDITORIUM 5:30 P.M. - 7 P.M.	 REGISTRATION BLITZ STUDENT CENTER BALLROOM 11 A.M. - 4 P.M.				

Scoop's Forecast

49°		32°	Tuesday, Nov. 12
52°		44°	Wednesday, Nov. 13
50°		37°	Thursday, Nov. 14
55°		36°	Friday, Nov. 15
57°		42°	Saturday, Nov. 16
58°		47°	Sunday, Nov. 17
55°		44°	Monday, Nov. 18



EMU communication lecturer dies

*Hunter Johnstone
News Reporter*

Full-time lecturer Ethel Kluesner died at the age of 61 years old on Oct. 23, 2024.

Kluesner had been with EMU for over 20 years, teaching communication courses that included Listening, Nonverbal Communication, Speech, Intercultural, and Interpersonal. She also received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from EMU in 1998 and 1999 respectively.

In addition to teaching at EMU, she also taught at Lansing Community College. Kluesner also was one of the first professors to teach online classes before they became more common post-COVID-19.

“I’ll always remember her willingness to discuss difficult topics and her grace during times of uncertainty,” Amy Bearinger, full-time lecturer of Communication and former student of Kluesner’s said.

Kluesner was known for being a team player and compassionate. She had also received many MVP (Most

Valuable Professor) honors from student-athletes and had her classes sought out by students in her career at EMU.

“My office was across the small hallway from Ethel Karinen Kluesner’s office, a colleague in my department, but I’d never had the pleasure of taking one of her classes. Her door was always open, our schedules matched for several years and she gratefully took me under her wing, fluffed my feathers, and steadied my quaking knees with her guidance, and pearls of wisdom and stoked my creative fires as we lunched

and planned the lessons to come,” Deborah Samuels, full-time lecturer of Communication and colleague of Kluesner’s said.

Aside from teaching, Kluesner enjoyed spending time in the Upper Peninsula with her family, friends, and beloved animals.

Online tributes for Kluesner may be shared at www.sharpfuneralhomes.com

Donations can be made to the Michigan Humane Society in honor of Kluesner through the obituary on Sharp Funeral Home’s website.

What's the move? Nov. 12-18

Check out these events happening on and around Eastern Michigan University’s campus.

CHHS Brownbag Presentation - Nov. 12

Listen to Jillian Graves’s presentation on “Navigating Moral Injury, Burnout and Compassion Fatigue in Provider Practice” over lunch in Marshall 115 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. [RSVP here](#).

WGST Registration Blitz - Nov 12

Join the WGST department to learn about and receive advising for Winter 2025 classes while having pizza and playing trivia. This event is LBC credit-approved and will be held in The Lake House from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Cheese and Chill! - Nov. 13

Stop by The Honors College for grilled cheese and community. It will be held in room 107 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. [Sign up here](#).

Finding the Lost Arab America: History Speaker Series - Nov. 13

Join Akram Khater’s presentation on the hidden histories of Arab immigrants in the US. This presentation is LBC credit-approved and will be in the Student Center Auditorium from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Registration Blitz - Nov. 14

Attend university-wide collaborative event that aims to help students register for Winter 2025. The event is in the Student Center Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Eastern Michigan University at 175: Telling our Stories to Understand Who We Are - Nov. 14

Stop by the Halle Library Auditorium to hear about the university’s history and ask questions. The seminar is LBC credit-approved and will run from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Digital Marketing Workshop - Marketing, Culture, and AI - Nov. 15

Explore Marketing, Culture, and AI with leaders from the Detroit Pistons, Pinterest, Google, and local high-tech startups in the Student Center Ballroom. This event costs \$5, is LBC credit-approved and runs from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.,.

Bandorama - Nov. 16

See a concert featuring the Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, and EMU Marching Band. Tickets are \$15, and the concert will be held in Pease Auditorium from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Turkey Trails - Ypsilanti - Nov. 17

Join the annual Turkey Trails 5k/10k at Rolling Hills County Park. The event costs \$15 and runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Day of Action Tabling - Nov. 18

Learn how to take action on trans allyship at the Student Center First Floor from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Michigan statewide positions election results

*AnnaBelle Favre
News Reporter*

On Nov. 5, 2024, voters across the county took part in their civic duty. Candidates and issues were available for voting on a national, state, and county level. In the state of Michigan, results are as follows:

Representative in State Legislature: 32nd District

State legislators represent their district within Congress. Washtenaw County is in Michigan’s 32nd of 110 districts. These positions are reelected every two years. All 110 legislators work in Lansing, the state capitol.

Candidates (Official Results):
Jimmy Wilson Jr (Democrat) 75.1%
Martin Church (Republican) 21.6%
Ryan Sample (Green) 3.4%

Member of the State Board of Education

The U.S. Constitution gives the states rights to schooling and education. This means that the members of Michigan’s Board of Education govern statewide

curriculum, assessments, graduation requirements, and funding. The term for board members is eight years. Two State Board of Education positions are available.

Candidates (Unofficial Results):
Nikki Snyder (Republican, Incumbent) 24.5%
Tom McMillin (Republican, Incumbent) 24.2%
Theodore Jones (Democrat) 23.5%
Adam Zemke (Democrat) 22.5%
Mary Anne Hering (Working Class) 2.3%
Scotty Boman (Libertarian) 1.5%
Christine Schwartz (U.S. Taxpayers) 0.9%
Ted Gerrard (U.S. Taxpayers) 0.6%

Regent of the University of Michigan

The eight members of the Board of Regents for the University of Michigan work with the university president to oversee administration, university systems, and funds for all three University of Michigan campuses over an eight year term. Two positions on the Board of Regents are available.

Candidates (Unofficial Results):

Carl Meyers (Republican) 25.8%
Denise Ilitch (Democrat, Incumbent) 25.1%
Shauna Ryder Diggs (Democrat) 23.4%
Sevag Vartanian (Republican) 22.6%
Donna Oetman (U.S. Taxpayers) 1.6%
Andrew Chadderdon (Libertarian) 1.6%

Trustee of Michigan State University

The Board of Trustees of Michigan State University is responsible for advocating for the university, aligning with public purposes, and interacting with other state agencies. Each member serves an eight year term, and two Trustees will be elected.

Candidates (Unofficial Results):
Mike Balow (Republican) 24.9%
Julie Maday (Republican) 24.2%
Rebecca Bahar-Cook (Democrat) 24.2%
Thomas Stallworth (Democrat) 22.6%
Grant Baker (Libertarian) 1.3%
Janet Sanger (U.S. Taxpayers) 1.1%

John La Pietra (Green) 1%
John Sanger (U.S. Taxpayers) 0.7%

Governor of Wayne State University

The board of Governors at Wayne State University elect the president of the university, supervise general university workings, and manages bylaws and regulations. Each of the eight members serves an eight year term, and two Governor positions are available.

Candidates (Unofficial Results):
Michael Busuito (Republican, Incumbent) 24.7%
Sunny Reddy (Republican) 23.9%
Mark T. Gaffney (Democrat, Incumbent) 23.3%
Rasha Demashkieh (Democrat) 23.2%
Suzanne Roehrig (Working Class) 1.8%
Farid Ishac (Libertarian) 0.9%
Sami Makhoul (Green) 0.8%
William Mohr II (U.S. Taxpayers) 0.7%
Kathleen Oakford (Natural Law) 0.6%

Thinking about a Friendsgiving? The time to plan is now

*Jaida Hawkins
Staff Writer*

While it’s only been a declared federal holiday since 1941, when Congress set Thanksgiving as the fourth Thursday in November, the traditional gathering of family -- and yes, friends -- around a grand meal has been part of the American culture since long before the revolution.

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration reports that the United States first celebrated a day of thanks soon after the U.S. Constitution was ratified. Following the recommendations of the Congress, President George Washington issued a proclamation naming Thursday, Nov. 26, 1789, as a “Day of Publick Thanksgivin.” The tradition continued, though different families and different states chose different dates to celebrate.

Fast forward to the 21st century, and pop culture references have merged the guest list with the holiday name. Researchers at Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary reported that the earliest print references of Friendsgiving are found in 2007, as the term was found on Usenet groups and Twitter. Those researchers also note that while the term often is associated with the popular

NBC television show “Friends,” the word did not originate there.

Merriam-Websters researchers said the term found more national use after it was used in a commercial for Bailey’s Irish Cream in 2011. Then it became part of the plot in an episode of “The Real Housewives of New Jersey,” that aired in June that year. By the way, the episode was called “Gobblefellas.” A Google Trends query reveals significant increases in searches for the term starting in 2011.

Wherever and whenever it was used, the definition behind the merged words became a guest list focused on friends instead of family, perhaps because family was far away, or the hosts desired a second celebration, a way to escape family and enjoy friends.

That doesn’t mean the family is off the list. Pew Research shows that 73% of Americans believe spending time with family tops all other priorities. Yet, in 2023, nearly a fifth of Americans reported celebrated Friendsgiving. Marketing and researcher specialist Sara Shriber, reporting on the website for polling and marketing firm Civic Science, said the Friendsgiving trend is led by Gen Z.

“Nearly a quarter of Gen Z adults ages 18-24 have either celebrated

Friendsgiving this year or plan to,” Shriber wrote, “followed by younger millennials ages 25-34 (or 22%).”

With Thanksgiving just a few weeks away, and whether the Friendsgiving plan is a replacement or a second celebration, here some are tips for getting the table set for friends.

Plan ahead: Create a holiday-themed invitation and send it to each friend. Well, actually, it can be any type of theme, not just holidays.

Get a head count: Have friends RSVP to the event, so there’s a clue on how much food to prepare and how many chairs (or napkins) will be needed.

Create a menu: Recommendations focus on potluck plans, and the benefits are greater than just avoiding all that cooking. So, write each friend’s name down and the food item they’ll bring. Note that the U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends a pound of turkey for each guest, if that’s the main dish on the menu. Many recipe and cooking experts recommend the same, or up to a pound and a quarter if the guests are likely to be hungry. A major benefit to a Friendsgiving potluck is that guests might be coming from different cultures and traditions, bringing new,

untried or exotic side dishes to share.

Find the space: Be sure to find a location large enough for the party. No one wants to sit at the kids table during a Friendsgiving.

Decorate: While it’s not usually a formal occasion, neither is Friendsgiving a run-of-the-mill pizza night. So, visit the malls and grocery stores to find decorations for a festive environment -- and consider the theme from step one.

Party Ideas DIY: Arts and crafts stores can help with the activities. Examples include a “Thanks Board,” allowing guests to write down what they are thankful for, and share it on the board. Or, after everyone has identified what they’re thankful for, have guests write on a glass plate, naming something they want to leave behind. Then give everyone the opportunity to shatter that plate.

Playlist: Create a fun playlist for background music as friends participate in the planned activities.

Let it go: Once the party starts, stop worrying about the details. Instead, enjoy the time with friends. Have fun and create memories.

Good luck! Thanksgiving is Nov. 28. Anyone planning to be a Friendsgiving host should already be on step one.

Alice By Heart

October 3-6, 2024 Suggested for ages 13+.

Silent Sky

November 21-24, 2024 Suggested for ages 12+.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream

December 6-8*, 2024 Suggested for ages 12+. *Accessible with ASL.

The Rocky Horror Show

February 13-16, 2025 Suggested for mature audiences only.

Cause Play

April 3-6*, 2025 School Matinees April 7 & 8* Suggested for ages 9+. *Accessible with ASL.

The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus

April 11 & 12, 2025 Suggested for ages 5+.

EMU THEATRE
SCHEDULE
2024-2025

*Ticket Office hours in the
Judy Sturgis Hill building are
1-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, and
90 minutes before show time.*

Lindsay Calka on her role as director of Groundcover News

Olivia Hendry
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: The Eastern Echo staff is meeting regularly with interesting people both on and off campus. Engage in those conversations with us, through our weekly Q&A report. This week, we talk to Lindsay Calka, director of Groundcover News and community advocate.

As director of Groundcover News, Lindsay Calka acts as a news editor and an advocate for the homeless community in Washtenaw County. Groundcover News is a newspaper that focuses coverage on underrepresented communities, along with providing distribution jobs for the homeless. She has been the director of the operation since the summer of 2020, after being involved for more than two years. She also lives at Hospitality House Ypsilanti, a home that provides a warm meals, showers, and laundry facilities to the homeless community at specific times during the week.

Q: Please introduce yourself.
Calka: My name is Lindsay Calka, and I am the director and the publisher of Groundcover News. I also live, which is an important piece of my life, at a House of Hospitality in Ypsi, right by the bus station in Downtown, and also do community organizing within housing justice, homelessness and things like that. My involvement in Groundcover is my day job, and a really important one to me, like it's a big part

of my life, but I do see it as one piece of, you know, the many things that I'm involved in.

Q: What is a House of Hospitality?
Calka: It is a home that is open to people on certain days and times. Think of it as like a shelter, but the priority isn't necessarily just like services and resources. It's like [a] home feeling. Twice a week it's open to the whole community. People come and primarily get a meal. We have a big home cooked meal. But also during that time, [people] are able to take showers and do laundry, and we have in our basement a free store, and try to have as much stuff and things that people need to get some basic needs met. It's a place for people to come together, build community, strengthen relationships, so that we can fight back against the reasons people are without housing.

Q: How did you get involved with this Hospitality House?
Calka: I moved to Ann Arbor for school. I grew up in Tampa, Florida. My folks are from Detroit. So I chose to come to U-of-M because I wanted to kind of return to Michigan, where my family is. But I was in Ann Arbor, it was my first or second week being in school and I went to Mercy House [another House of Hospitality] for breakfast, which happens on Saturday mornings. So, I went to that and had a wonderful, amazing experience. Met a lot of people. It continued to be something that I did while I was at university, on and off. A lot of my relationships, actually, with Groundcover vendors and just with the

larger kind of homeless community, were born from being there.

Q: How did your involvement with Hospitality House help with you working at Groundcover News?
Calka: There were people that I met just from the breakfast that were Groundcover vendors or were involved in Groundcover in some way. There also was a student org that I was a part of that would facilitate people volunteering at these different places. So, I ended up volunteering at both Groundcover and Mercy House. I was just a volunteer for about a year and a half. I was at the office, working on my computer, doing some design thing for a magazine that I was doing on campus, and was using InDesign. And Susan, who was the founder and the director of Ground cover at the time, was like, oh, you know, looks like you can use this program, our designer's wanting to move on. That was the end of the year in 2019, and by the beginning of 2020, I had started kind of doing that. That summer, I kind started getting more involved in the operations. I was in the office every day, getting to know people even more, getting to know how the organization runs. And by the end of [summer 2021], I was asked to take over as director.

Q: What is Groundcover News?
Calka: Groundcover is a community street newspaper. Our mission is that we exist to do three things. One, to provide economic opportunity for self-determined individuals impacted by poverty. You can show up and get

trained and get to work right away and have the ability to get paid that same day too. The second thing that we do is produce a street newspaper that uplifts marginalized voices in Washtenaw County. That's what most people know, we're a newspaper, and we function like any other newspaper does. And then, three, we promote an action that contributes towards a just, caring and equal society. So, all of those things come together when there's a vendor who's working, selling a newspaper in person, strengthening relationships in the community. We also try and host events and do things constantly, to bring people together, to facilitate conversations, to share information across class, across race, across the things that divide us, and we see that as part of our mission as well.

Q: Share a story about someone you made a connection with through Groundcover News?
Calka: Jim Clark is a vendor and a writer. We do a lot of stuff; our lives are very intertwined. He's a really important person to me, and I think it shows that being able to connect with people and talk about your vision for a better world, and then use the resources, like the newspaper, to write, and promote those ideas, or to bring people together and work on projects. We've done a lot of stuff together outside of Groundcover, but that has always been the core: having the paper and the community, the network, to promote and move forward on those projects and ideas.

Q: What is one thing you've learned since you've started working for Groundcover?
Calka: I have 4,000 things I could say. Like, I'm a different person now from working here. I've been thinking about this most recently, that Groundcover vendors, whether they realize it or not, are fighting against a lot of stigma when selling the paper through the content that's published, and also the act of selling. But part of what I've needed to do is defend when those statements are being launched more formally at us.

Q: What is one thing people in Washtenaw County can do to better help the homeless community?
Calka: Paying attention and standing up against oppression and attacks against poor people. Housing isn't the only issue that we are focused on, but it is kind of like a great unifier. A lot of people can relate and identify as being, at one point, housing insecure. I would say, everybody has a part to play. And keeping their eyes open to the ways that neighborhoods are changing, being more gentrified. People are being pushed out, people are being evicted, not being able to even access housing. In general, what we're fighting for is, you know, a better world. People become homeless because they don't have a house, it's not some like, critical moral flaw that people have. So, I think for people to like, understand that, get to know people, and hear their stories.

Ypsi natives expand to honey beer with Maniacal Mead Co.

Gray Connor
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: The Eastern Echo staff is meeting regularly with interesting people both on and off campus. Engage in those conversations with us through our weekly Q&A report. This week, The Echo features two Ypsilanti natives who launched a local business based on honey wine.

Co-owners Jeff Fraser and Patrick Echlin introduced mead to the Ypsilanti area in 2018 when they opened Maniacal Mead Co., a first-time business venture for them both, on Ecorse Road. The two have been serving highly rated drinks and hijinks to the outer community for over five years. They also created their other business, 738 Brewing Co. in Depot Town, at about the same time.

Q: Can you tell me a little bit about you? How did you get into the alcohol business?
Echlin: I was born and raised in Ypsilanti. I did spend some time away, but family brought me right back to settle here. When I was off at Western Michigan University [in Kalamazoo, Michigan], Bell's Brewery was right there [8938 Krum Ave. in nearby Comstock, Michigan]. I went in, and I was fascinated by it and the whole process that put it together. I hadn't tried anything related to homebrewing before, but I was enamored. Fast forward to 2016, and my partner and I began building the 734 Brewing Co., where we focus on a few different types of beverages. We finished setting up in 2018, and that was the start to our first business venture.

Q: So you started with 738 Brewing Co. How did you come up with the idea for a meadery?
Echlin: I was sitting at the former Cultivate, working on some stuff for 734 Brewing Co., and that's when I



A bartender at Maniacal Meadery on Ecorse Road in Ypsilanti, Michigan, pours a glass for a customer in January 2020. Mead is an alcoholic drink made with honey, and as such is not technically considered a wine, nor a beer. However, some do refer to mead as a honey-beer. Courtesy of Maniacal Meadery

met my business partner, Jeff Fraser. We got to talking, and he told me about his dreams to start a company. I took him to my own brewery, showed him the dirt floor, and he asked if I wanted to try starting a meadery with him. I said sure, and the lease was signed in 2018. Mead wasn't anything special to me when I started 734, but when I was talking to Jeff, he told me he had some mead in his car that he'd made. In previous ventures with it, I'd written it off as something that wasn't really for me and wasn't my taste. We cracked his open, and it dawned on me that I'd

never seen what mead could really be.
Q: Are there any challenges you faced while creating your businesses?
Echlin: There were a lot of challenges, but I wouldn't want to put them out there. With any heavy-regulated industry, there's a lot of paperwork, and lots of loops to jump through. Luckily, I had 734 already, so I was pretty prepared when I opened the meadery. In all honesty, it's starting to get pretty cramped production-wise at our current location, so we're starting to look for ways to expand

our footprint. For now, however, we're focusing on maximizing what we have and spreading the word about our edge-of-town shop.
Q: What can customers look forward to? Any upcoming events?
Echlin: The first Thursday of every month, we host an event called 'Thursday' (get it?), where some of our customers come in dressed like Vikings, and we even drink our mead straight out of horns. It's kinda quirky, but it's fun. If you're just coming in looking for drinks, we usually have

about 18 different options on tap, and those flavors change week-by-week. It's definitely worth stopping by, since there's a good chance that you'll be trying something new.
For those interested in checking out Maniacal Mead Co., the in-person location is 1497 Ecorse Road in Ypsilanti, Michigan. More information about future events and drinks for purchase can be found on the pair's website at maniacalmeadco.com. To contact Maniacal Meadery, send an email to maniacalmeadco@gmail.com.

Men's basketball power to 83-58 victory over Siena Heights

Caleb Henderson
Sports Reporter

The Jalin Billingsley (Cleveland, Ohio/Lutheran East/Georgetown) show was on Friday afternoon at the George Gervin GameAbove Center.

In his final home opener, the senior dropped a career-high 32 points and ten rebounds, including 17 in the first half, to give the Eastern Michigan men’s basketball team a much-needed bounce-back victory against Siena Heights, 83-58.

“[Jalin Billingsley] was really a big force for us,” Eagles head coach Stan Heath said after the game.

Alongside Billingsley, Jalen Terry (Flint, Michigan/Beecher/Oregon/DePaul) and Yusuf Jihad (Farmington Hills, Michigan/North Farmington/Oakland) also both added double figures to the scoreboard with 14 and 10 points respectively, Terry tallying nine rebounds in his near double-double effort.

The Eagles also posted an elite defensive effort, holding Siena Heights to a 35.4% field goal percentage (23/65)

and a 20.7% mark from behind the arc (6/29). The Saints only scored 25 points the entire second half, a pivotal factor that helped Eastern Michigan pull away down the stretch.

“We stopped giving up easy baskets,” Heath said, explaining why the Eagles extended their lead from seven at the half to a game-high of 25 during the closing stages. “I think that triggered offense from our defense, and that’s what kinda gave us more of a cushion, some more transition baskets,” he added.

The Eagles improved to 1-1 on the

campaign, while Siena Heights dropped to 0-3. Eastern Michigan bounced back strongly from a close loss earlier this week in the season opener against Texas State.

“Anytime you shake off the cobwebs from a game you didn’t play so well, that’s good for your psyche,” Heath said. “When you got young players on the team, you want to feel good emotionally,” he added.

The Eagles will return to action on Thursday, Nov. 14, at a matchup on the road against IU-Indianapolis, which is awaiting the squad.

Eagle Tips and Tales: Nov. 12-18

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

“We know our backs are against the wall, so we know that we got to come in every day, you know, put our head down and work to finish out strong. Because there’s still hope... depending on how everything plays out in [the] conference. But I feel like we are at a good pace right now, and we just have to continue to keep coming in, working day in and day out... and stay with the game plan, stay with the coaches, and still have that chemistry as a team,” said Markus Allen, Eastern Michigan University wide receiver, after the heartbreaking loss against University of Toledo.

Who wouldn’t want to keep up with all EMU athletics after hearing that?

Get ready for an action-packed weekend as Eastern Michigan athletics prepares for exciting matchups in mid-November! From intense football battles to nail-biting basketball games and competitive cross-country races, EMU athletes are geared up to showcase their skills and determination. Whether you’re cheering from the stands in Ypsilanti or following along from afar, here’s a breakdown of the can’t-miss events happening this week.

Football Showdown at Ohio

On Nov. 13, the Eastern Michigan football team will play Ohio at 7 p.m. in Athens, Ohio. The Eagles aim to win against their conference rival, and fans can expect a fierce battle on the gridiron.

Men’s Basketball Takes on IU Indy

The excitement continues on Nov. 14 when the men’s basketball team travels to Indianapolis to face IU Indy at 6:30 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity for the Eagles to build momentum early in the season against a formidable opponent.

Cross Country at NCAA Great Lakes Regional

The men’s and women’s cross-country teams will compete at the NCAA Great Lakes Regional in Norton, Ohio, on Nov. 15. This event is crucial for runners looking to make their mark and qualify for national competitions.

Volleyball at Buffalo

The volleyball team is on the road for a doubleheader against Buffalo. The first match will be on Nov. 15 at 6 p.m., followed by a second match on Nov. 16 at 4 p.m. These games are vital for the Eagles, who aim to secure their spot in the postseason.

Men’s Basketball at Cleveland State

On Nov. 16, the men’s basketball team will play Cleveland State at 3 p.m. in Cleveland, Ohio. This matchup presents another opportunity for the Eagles to demonstrate their skills and compete against intense competition.

With so much on the line, support your Eastern Michigan Eagles throughout the weekend! Stay tuned to The Eastern Echo for all the latest updates, scores, and news on EMU athletics.

Read more at easternecho.com!



Eastern Michigan NIL Exchange connects athletes, local businesses



Photo courtesy of EMU Athletics

Elena Davis
Sports Editor

Eastern Michigan University has introduced the Eastern NIL Exchange, a pioneering digital platform to connect student-athletes with business opportunities in the Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) arena.

This platform, designed to foster collaboration between EMU’s student-athletes and community businesses, streamlines the process for brands, alumni, and donors to secure sponsorship and promotional deals with student-athletes directly and transparently.

The Eastern NIL Exchange allows registered businesses to search and connect with EMU athletes, negotiate contracts, and finalize payments. This interface also provides crucial features for student-athletes and businesses by integrating with the INFLCR Verified Compliance Ledger, ensuring each transaction meets NCAA and institutional guidelines.

As Alex Hensley, EMU’s Associate Athletics Director, explains, the platform is designed to simplify NIL deals, making compliance straightforward and accessible.

“The primary goal for the Eastern NIL Exchange is for third-party businesses to

easily reach our student-athletes for NIL activity purposes,” Hensley states. “It makes the process very streamlined because all requirements needed to permissibly do NIL are covered through the Exchange.”

NIL opportunities and community engagement

Since NIL regulations were enacted on July 1, 2021, student-athletes nationwide have leveraged these new opportunities, and EMU’s athletes are no exception. Through the Eastern NIL Exchange, popular opportunities include brand deals and promotional campaigns with local businesses, reflecting a growing trend among athletes to partner with companies in meaningful ways.

“Our student-athletes are definitely taking advantage of the new NIL rules, which is fantastic,” Hensley remarked. He hopes to see continued growth as more students and businesses recognize the value of these partnerships.

Beyond individual benefits, the Exchange promises to impact the Ypsilanti community by fostering stronger ties between EMU athletes and local businesses.

“My hope is that local companies take advantage of the Eastern NIL Exchange to create relationships with the athletics

department as a whole. We have fantastic student-athletes who would be great representatives for many of our local businesses,” Hensley added.

He envisions the platform strengthening community support for EMU athletics by encouraging mutually beneficial relationships.

Simple registration and compliance

The Eastern NIL Exchange registration process is straightforward. Businesses interested in partnering with EMU athletes can visit the Eastern NIL Exchange website to register and, once approved, connect with athletes. According to Hensley, the process generally takes 2-3 business days and offers an intuitive way for businesses to meet compliance requirements while accessing a broad array of athlete profiles.

Student-athletes and businesses benefit from automated features in the platform, such as contract uploading and transaction disclosures, which help both parties maintain transparency and regulatory compliance. This accessibility supports athletes by reducing the administrative load and helping them focus on optimizing NIL opportunities.

Supporting student-athletes in the NIL landscape

Navigating the NIL space can be challenging, and Hensley acknowledges that separating oneself from the competition takes dedication.

To maximize NIL’s potential, Hensley encourages student-athletes to “put yourself out there and make sure the consumers are getting a return on their investment.”

He emphasizes that for student-athletes to sustain NIL deals, they must demonstrate a tangible impact and make their involvement valuable to business partners.

As the platform continues to develop, additional features are expected to roll out, enabling even more streamlined partnerships.

“The easier we can make it for our student-athletes, the better it will be,” Hensley notes.

Through continuous collaboration with Teamworks and INFLCR, EMU is committed to refining the Eastern NIL Exchange to support its student-athletes and the local community.

By empowering athletes to capitalize on their brands while adhering to NCAA guidelines, the Eastern NIL Exchange is paving the way for a new era in collegiate athletics at EMU.

Love sports? Love photos? Capture live games for The Eastern Echo!

Contact advisor@easternecho.com for more information!

'Outer Banks' season 4 finale leaves fans in tears

“Outer Banks” season 4 part 2 is full of adventures and running from Deputy Shoupe (Cullen Moss). The second part is way more shocking and intense than part one as the season develops. JJ (Rudy Pankow) is out of control and makes mistakes but always puts his friends before himself.

This season is about continuing to find the Generrete crown; the pogues are on their way to jail. They are losing everything that they have built, which is causing JJ to spiral as he just discovered that Luke, his father, is not his biological father. This comes as a shock and completely turns his life upside down. The rest of the pogues are trying to continuously save JJ and find the crown to get the treasure and save Poguelandia.

Highs

A high in the second part is the wild goose chase that the cops have to go through to catch JJ. This keeps the audience entertained, and the plot more interesting. His father, Chandler Groff (J. Anthony Crane), is the real culprit and keeps tricking JJ to get the crown. JJ’s finding of his father shows he can let his emotions get the best of him, considering he has never had a good father figure. This shows the audience that JJ has some soft spots and is not all fun and careless.

Another high is the obstacles that the pogues go through; it shows how courageous and strong they are. Pope (Jonathan Daviss) sacrifices his future

to save JJ; this shows that he cares more for his friends than himself. It shows that Pope is truly selflessness regarding the ones he loves.

The setting of Morocco for finding the crown is another high because of the gorgeous scenery. They are in the desert trying to find the treasure

her brother Rafe (Drew Starkey) slowly heal. Rafe shows that he cares for his sister and would save her friends even if he does not like them. He has trust issues that are displayed. He is perceived as the bad guy when in reality, he believes that everyone will screw him over.

relationship between John B. (Chase Stokes) and Sarah, which remains strong even after discovering shocking news. This news is fascinating as it shows how they will deal with their future.

The last high is how Kiara (Madison Bailey) shows her love for JJ; she will

destroys fans.

Lows

There are minimal lows within this season. The main low was JJ’s father Groff, because he cannot love his son. He turns out to be this monster who continues manipulating his son no matter the cost. He unforgivably betrays JJ; he is the true enemy. This frustrates and irritates the plot; he is worse than the mercenaries.

Another low is how the kooks are so selfish and ruthless. They aim to take everything away from the pogues without any remorse. This shows how arrogant they are and how they will destroy people regardless of the consequences.

The last low is the ending. It is heartbreaking and makes fans question how they will continue the show. This shocks everyone; fans believe it shouldn’t have ended this way.

Verdict

“Outer Banks” Season 4 Part 2 is worth watching; it is full of adventure and manipulation. This season will leave you on a heartbreaking cliffhanger.

Rating: 9 out of 10

Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.



while fighting the mercenaries. This adventure into Morocco gets intense and keeps the audience on their feet, afraid of what will happen next.

In this season, the relationship between Sarah (Madelyn Cline) and

The scene on the ship during their trip to Morocco was intense and scary, making the audience worry about their safety during this horrible storm. The storm graphics were impressive and realistic. Another high point is the

never give up on him, no matter how much he pushes her away. She believes in him when no one else does. This shows her genuine feelings towards him, and their unbreakable bond. The ending of this season is shocking and



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'The Diplomat' season 2 leaves viewers on shocking cliffhanger

Mariam Fakhreddine
Review Columnist

“The Diplomat” Season 2 was released on Netflix and is trending. This season is full of drama and obstacles that Kate has to face as the Ambassador of the United Kingdom. This series features Kerri Russell as Kate Wyler and Rufus Sewell as Hal Wyler. This season consists of 6 episodes and is for a mature audience only due to language.

This season follows the challenges Kate faces after the car bomb explosion, where her husband Hal was severely injured. She returns to intense international affairs even with the struggles she experiences after almost losing Hal and Stuart. This season is focused on the investigation involving the bombing of a British aircraft carrier. Kate, Eidra (Ali Ahn), and Dennison (David Gyasi) suspect that the true culprit is British Prime Minister Nicol Trowbridge (Rory Kinnear). However, things become more complicated as secrets come out that Trowbridge may not be responsible, but someone else within the British government.

Highs

The high point of this season is the tension between Kate and Austin

Dennison, the Foreign Secretary. Their attraction to each other is not hidden. The tension grows as they become closer while flying to different countries together. Another high point is the bond between Kate and Hal; even when their marriage falls apart, they continue to support one another. Kate’s relationship with Hal is complicated, but he tries to repair what has been broken. Hal’s love for Kate is wholesome, and he cannot be with anyone who is not her. The marriage conflict between Hal and Kate and their performances are outstanding due to the nuance and tension.

The political escalations keep the audience intrigued by power plays and diplomatic disputes. The investigation into the bombing keeps the audience on their feet because of the thrill of finding out who the real culprit is. The plot twists in finding out the actual criminals behind this horrific bombing is shocking. This is a high, considering



how the show presents the suspense and tension building.

Russell’s performance portraying a strong woman in a position of power is beautifully done. Her character’s style slowly develops from more messy to this woman in power suits. Her personality is brought out more when she becomes comfortable with her partners. Her friendship with Eidra is developing due to their shared interest

in finding the truth behind the bombing. They trust each other, which is intriguing, considering Eidra was not Kate’s most prominent fan last season.

The last high is the ending of the season, which leaves fans in absolute shock. This season leaves viewers on a cliffhanger, the season’s biggest plot twist, creating a thrilling obstacle for Kate to face next season.

Lows

There were minimal lows this season of “The Diplomat.” The main low is the unresolved romantic tension between Austin and Kate, which slowly slips away towards the end of the season. There could have been more depth between them as there is a hint of romance that might have happened during their trip to France but was never pursued.

Another low point is Hal’s manipulation; he hides certain motives from Kate. His plans for Kate to become vice president are never revealed. He interferes with Kate’s career multiple times, which can be overdone. His

motivations appear to be self-motivated rather than supportive of his wife.

Another low is Kate’s disapproval of Hal becoming her “trophy wife.” When Hal decides to back off Kate’s career and political inquisitions, she does not see it. She believes Hal will always be selfish and have power. But when he backs off, she asks for advice and help, pulling him back into the political game.

The final low point is Vice President Grace Penn (Allison Janney) because of how fake she was towards Kate. She is power-hungry and acts like she doesn’t care about her spot as VP. Grace’s character has no background information on how she came into the White House and her true motives behind the walls.

Verdict

“The Diplomat” Season 2 is full of captivating plot twists. The shocking cliffhanger made this season unbelievable and left us yearning for more.

Rating: 8 out of 10

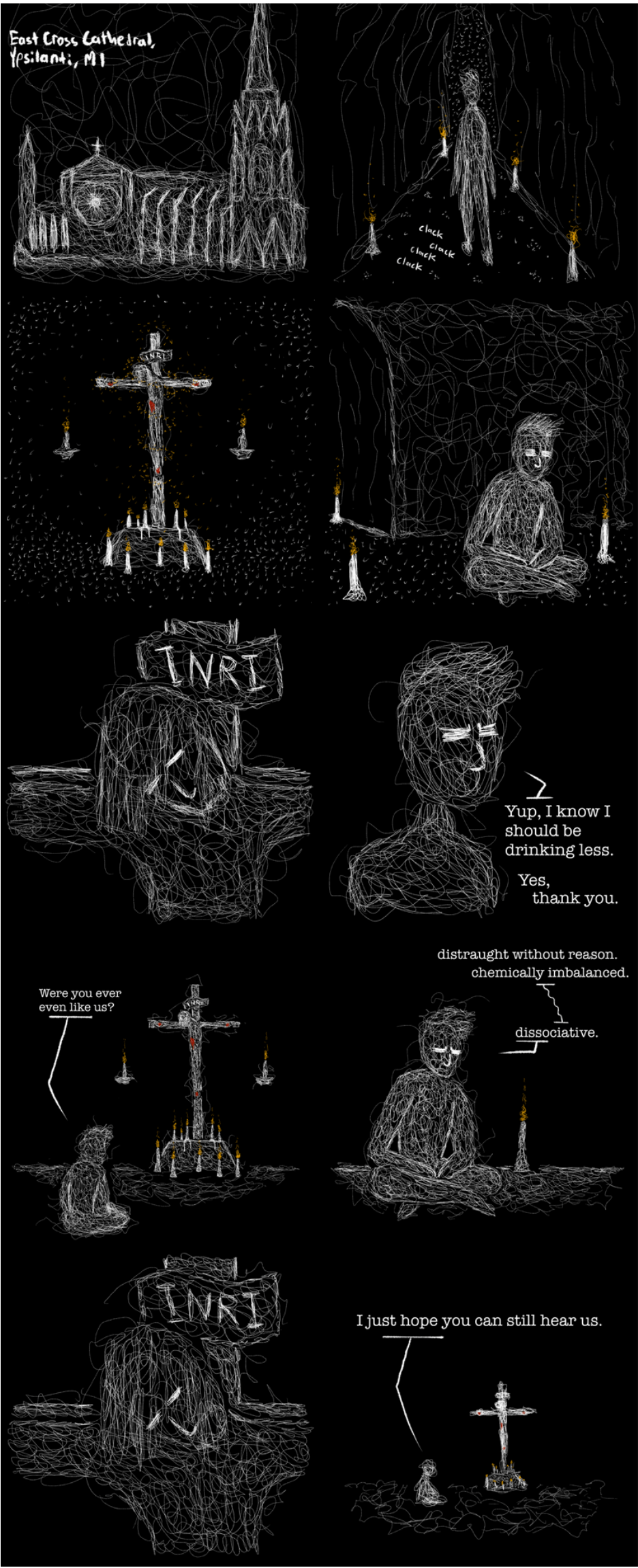
Mariam Fakhreddine is a film and theater reviewer for The Eastern Echo. She has worked as a news and features reporter for The Echo for two years.

Wooden Faces
Gideon the Ghost
Comic Artist



Words of Reassurance
Rylee Curley
Design Chief

Cheap
Kylee Murdoch
Comic Artist



SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephram Group

7				9			2
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Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

1	6	3	9	7	8	4	5	2
5	7	2	1	3	4	6	8	9
8	9	4	5	6	2	7	3	1
2	1	8	4	9	5	3	6	7
7	4	9	3	2	6	8	1	5
6	3	5	7	8	1	2	9	4
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9	8	7	2	1	3	5	4	6
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ELECTION WATCH PARTY

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On Nov. 5 2024, students at EMU gathered at the Lake House to watch the results of the 2024 election. This watch party, put on by both Eastern Votes and Engage @ EMU, was a nonpartisan opportunity for students to celebrate the end of the election season, and destress while doing so. Students could color, play "Election Bingo", make slime, and enjoy free food as the night went on. No matter the student's political affiliation, this event encouraged all to come together and watch the results pour in from local elections, to the presidential. *Photo gallery by Kaleb Stanley*

